



H.R. 2239 - Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 2239, as amended, is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Boozman (R-AR) on May 9, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported, amended, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on May 15, 2007.

H.R. 2239, as amended, is expected to be considered on May 23, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 2239, as amended, would allow severely injured servicemembers to receive vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits (VR&E) prior to their discharge from active duty. This provision applies to all veterans who are eligible for VR&E, even if they are not totally disabled.

Background

Current law does not allow for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide VR&E benefits until the servicemember is discharged from active duty.

VR&E's primary responsibility is vocational rehabilitation services for veterans who have a service-connected disability. To obtain services a veteran must be found both eligible and entitled. The outcome of these services lead to suitable employment that is consistent with their aptitudes and interests, or achieving independence in their daily living.

Cost

"CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have no significant impact on direct spending. Implementing this bill would have no effect on receipts or spending subject to appropriation." *Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate*

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